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Of the early History of Sindh, from the "Chuch Namuh" and other authorities. By LIEUT. POSTANS, Assist. Pol. Agent, Shikarpore.

[My able correspondent, Lieut. Postans, has been for some time perseveringly employed in tracing out whatever material is available in *Sindh*, for the purpose of throwing light upon its early history. A book called the "*Chuch Namuh*," is the principal authority to which he has had recourse in preparing the historical sketch, which he has enabled me to have the satisfaction of publishing. Both he and Capt. Hart (2d Grenadiers, Bombay army) who has been turning his attention to similar pursuits, despair of discovering any more authentic work bearing upon the early history of *Sindh*, and agree in describing the modern *Sindhees* as so illiterate and apathetic, as neither to have the will, nor the power to further their researches. I still, however, do not despair of the recovery of other authorities, as the country becomes better known to us.

In the mean time, Lieut. Postans has ably and successfully availed himself of all the material at his disposal, which, dating from the Mussulman inroads, may be fairly considered as authentic. The short notice of the history of *Sindh* before that period, to be found in the works of Mussulman authors, must be necessarily in many respects of a traditional character, and we indeed find, that the *Chuch Namuh* does not attempt to do more than describe the revolution which destroyed the ancient Sindian dynasty in the century immediately preceding the Islamite invasion. The use of the modern Persian name *Bruhmanabad*, as applied to a city in the days of *Chuch*, gives sufficient proof of the loose manner in which the Mussulman historian collected his material; he was perhaps, in the spirit of a genuine Moslem, careless of all respecting the infidel inhabitants of the land, which was not in some way immediately connected with the advent of his own people.

We are not the less bound to acknowledge our obligations to Lieut. Postans, for having undertaken the task of laying, compendiously, before an English reader, the first historical notice of *Sindh*, which has I believe appeared unconnected with the history of other lands and peoples.]



CHAPTER I.

Sindh—its situation—climate—name whence derived—early history—capital *Alor*—extent of territory—rule of the *Rahees*—appearance of the first Brahmin *Chuch*—his reign and death—his son *Dahir*—account of his rule until the Mahomedan invasion.

Sindh is one of the sixty-one climates of the world; it is situated in the five first climates, belonging chiefly to the second, and is in the same region as the holy cities of *Mecca* and *Medina*. The river of *Sindh* rises in the mountains of *Cashmeer*; another joins it from the mountains of *Cabool* in *Mooltan*; it is met by the river *Sehoon*, and thus proceeds to the sea. Its water is clear, bright, and cool during the hot season; in the language of the country, it is called *Mehran*. All the rivers of *Sindh* flow towards the south, where they empty themselves into the sea, (such as the waters of *Peelab*, *Chenab*, *Lahore*, *Sultanpoor*, and *Bajuwarrak*.) The climate of *Sindh* is delightful; its mornings and evenings cool, the country to the north hot, whilst that to the south is cold. Its inhabitants intelligent, and of large stature. *Sindh* is so called from *Sindh*, the brother of *Hind*, the son of *Noah*, whose descendants from one generation to another ruled in that country; from them also sprang numerous tribes, such as the *Nubeteh*, the men of *Tak*, and the tribe of *Moomeed*, who governed and possessed it by turns; no record remains of these, and its history commences with the last of the dynasty of the *Rahees*, or *Rajahs*, whose capital city and seat of government was *Alor*. *Alor* is described as a large, flourishing, and populous city, situated on the banks of the river *Mehran*, possessing large edifices; its gardens highly cultivated, producing every kind of tree and fruit, where travellers had all their wants supplied.

This territory extended to the east as far as *Cashmeer* and *Kunooj*; west to *Mukran* and the sea; south to the territories of the ports of *Surat* and *Deo*; and to the north to

Kandahar, Seestan, and the mountains of Soolleemany, Girwān, and Rynakan. The first *Rahee* mentioned, is *Rahee Dewahey*; he was a powerful prince, possessing absolute authority over the territory of *Sindh*, as above-mentioned, and formed alliances with many of the rulers in *Hind*; at his death, he was succeeded by his son *Rahee Siheersin*; he by his son *Rahee Sahursee*; and he by his son *Rahee Siheersin* the 2nd. During this reign, the king of Persia, *Ueem Roz*, sent a force by the road of *Kirman* to *Mukran* and *Reech*, which countries they laid waste, and *Rahee Siheersin*, in trying to repel this invasion, was defeated, and he himself killed by an arrow through the neck; his troops fled to *Alor*, and his son *Rahee Sahee* was seated upon the throne. During the *Rahee Sahee's* reign, the Brahmin *Chuch*, (who afterwards possessed the country, and bequeathed it to his son,) made his appearance. It is related, that *Rahee Sahee's* minister *Ram Rao*, was a man of such capability, and so well directed the affairs of state, that the *Rahee* himself seldom interfered with them, but passed the greatest part of his time in the sensual enjoyments of his harem. Accident brought *Ram Rao* and the Brahmin *Chuch* together; the latter is described as having been a very talented and eloquent man, well versed in all the learning of the Hindoos. *Ram Rao* appreciating his abilities made him his deputy, and on one occasion sent him on some affairs, which required the *Rahee's* attention, to the door of the harem: the sanctity of *Chuch's* priestly office admitted of his being allowed to enter the private apartments without the formality of a curtain between him and its inmates, and so great was his personal beauty, that the *Ranee* became enamoured of him at first sight; she afterwards made *Chuch* acquainted with her passion, but he declined her overtures, on the score of his being a Brahmin, and as such, incapable of treachery to the *Rahee*, whose confidence he had gained. But an opportunity soon presented itself to the *Ranee* for the accomplishment of her designs. The talents of *Chuch* had given him almost universal sway over the affairs of government, and the minister *Ram Rao* was no longer thought of; in the mean time the *Rahee* became dangerously ill, and the *Ranee* formed a plot, by which, in the event of the *Rahee's* death, *Chuch* should succeed to the throne of *Sindh*. She caused a proclama-

tion to be issued in the name of the *Rahee*, for a general assembly of all ranks and classes, and placed the throne in the public hall of audience. When the people were assembled, they were informed that the *Rahee's* health prevented his then being present, or any longer attending to the affairs of his country, but that he had given his signet, and delegated absolute authority to the Brahmin *Chuch*, whom they were to obey as his deputy. *Chuch* was thus vested with power, and his ability secured him the obedience of the subjects; the *Rahee* afterwards died, leaving no children; *Chuch* married the *Ranee*, and by universal consent was placed upon the throne. The government of five preceding *Rahees* occupied 137 years. *Chuch* was the first Brahmin who ruled. Many of the relations of the deceased *Rahee*, who possessed claims to the government of the country, were inveigled by the *Ranee* into the palace, and murdered. *Chuch* opened the doors of his treasury, and by his bounty secured the good offices of the soldiers, and of his subjects generally. He had scarcely however imagined himself secure on the throne, when *Rana Mihrut Chittooree*, heading the remainder of the relations of *Rahee Sahee*, came with an army from Joudpoor and Chittoor to assert their claims to the throne. The *Ranee* urged *Chuch* to prepare to defend his possessions; he again propitiated the troops by large presents in money, and prepared to meet *Rana Mihrut*. The forces drew up for battle, in the vicinity of *Alor*, but *Rana Mihrut* advancing in front of his host, challenged *Chuch* to single combat, as the most merciful way of settling a dispute, in which the two chiefs only were immediately concerned. The result of the combat was decided to be final as to all claims of territory; and whoever fell, his country was to pass to the possession of the victor. *Chuch* consented to this; the two chiefs advanced in front of their armies; *Chuch* directing his servant to bring his horse slowly after him, mounted quickly, and treacherously slew *Rana Mihrut* with one blow of his sword. The troops of the latter witnessing the fall of their leader, fled in dismay; *Chuch* pursued and killed many of the fugitives; he then returned with great pomp to *Alor*, the houses and bazars of which city were ornamented upon the occasion. His authority was now established, and he became a powerful king. After a reign of 40 years he died, leaving two sons; the eldest *Dahir*, and the younger *Dahir*; he had also one daughter. His eldest

Reign of *Chuch*,
until his death.

son *Dahir* succeeded to the throne, and his brother *Dahir* was appointed governor of *Burhamanabad*. He made a tour of his dominions, and after a treaty of peace with the governor of *Kirman*, returned to *Alor*. When he had for some time occupied himself in adjusting and arranging the affairs of his country, he consulted the astrologers as to his future fate, and that of his dominions; they told him that neither in his own, nor in his brother's horoscopes could they discover any evil sign, but that in his sister's it was written, that whomsoever she married, should possess the country of *Sindh*; this sorely perplexed *Dahir*, who finding the thought of his losing power and empire too intolerable to bear, determined to confound the fates, and avert the evil threatened, by marrying his own sister; his subjects and those about him tried in vain to dissuade him from so unnatural a proceeding, but his superstition was insurmountable, and with all the forms of his religion he married her.*

When his brother *Dahir* heard this, he was sorely incensed, and wrote a letter full of bitter reproaches to *Dahir*, for the disgrace which he had brought upon his family, adjuring him to make all the reparation in his power, by breaking off so unholy an alliance.

Dahir's infatuation would not admit of this, and he excused himself by assuring his brother, that beyond the mere ceremonies of marriage he had committed no sin.† *Dahir* determined to punish his brother, and with this intent collected a large force at *Burhamanabad*, with which he marched upon *Alor*, and encamped under the walls of the city; through the intervention of the mother, peace was concluded between the brothers, and *Dahir* died shortly afterwards of small pox, in the city of *Alor*. *Dahir* proceeded to *Burhamanabad*, and having appointed another deputy to govern it returned to *Alor*, where he busied himself in completing the fortifications, which his father *Chuch* had begun. His

* Capt. Hart in a letter to me quoted, in No. 108 (p. 1216 of vol. ix. Asiatic Society's Jour.) mentions the remains of an ancient city in *Upper Sindh*, called by the country people "Dumb-i-Dilora-Shah," traditionally said to have been destroyed on account of the king having married his sister. He referred me then to the "*Chuch Namuh*." The tradition refers doubtless to the "*Alor*," of the history, making it however the name of the king instead of the city, and to the story of *Dahir*. H

† It is but just to add, that in all the manuscripts from which this sketch is compiled, *Dahir* is particularly represented as not having added the crime of incest to his other follies.

dominions were prosperous, and his sovereignty firmly established; he made a tour to the East as far as *Cashmeer*, upon the boundaries of which country he planted two trees as memorials of his journey. The flourishing state of the country, and the growing power of *Dahir*, excited the envy of the *Rajahs* of *Hind*, and they instigated and supported *Runmul*, governor of *Kunooj*, in collecting a large force to descend upon *Sindh*. *Runmul* marched to the neighbourhood of *Alor*; *Dahir* called in the assistance of Arab mercenaries, and sought advice as to the best method of repelling the invasion, from *Mahamed Ullafee*, who directed him to dig a ditch in front of his army, one furlong in length, and to cover it over with grass, &c. *Mahomed Ullafee* at the head of about 5000 men, Arabs and Sindians, made a night attack upon the enemy's camp, then feigning a retreat, led them to the ditch, into which they fell, and were for the greatest part slaughtered; he took many prisoners, (80,000 men and 50 elephants.) After this victory the power of *Dahir* was more than ever firmly established; he ruled with pride and prosperity for twenty-five years, when his kingdom began to decline.

CHAPTER II.

Reason of sending the army of the Faithful to *Sindh*—*Buzeel* killed—*Bin Cassim* appointed to command the army—arrives at *Deebul*—takes that place as well as *Nierunkote*—the governor of *Moostan* surrenders—*Hijaj Bin Sookufie* urges *Bin Cassim* to attack *Alor*—the tribe of *Chunch* proffers their allegiance—the fort of *Rawur* taken.

The king of Ceylon, *Serundeepe*, sent some servants to the *Khalif* of Bagdad, (*Abdool Mulk*,) with presents of female slaves, and other merchandize; the boat which conveyed them, was driven into the port of *Deebul*, (now called *Tattah* and *Lahuny*,) where they were attacked and robbed by a predatory tribe, (the *Nukamrehs*,) some were killed, the rest imprisoned. When the news of this outrage reached *Hijaj Bin Yusuf Sookufie*, minister of *Abdool Mulk*, he instigated that prince to send an army to *Sindh*, to retaliate upon the infidels, and to release the faithful; at the same time he wrote a letter to the *Rajah Dahir*, for some explanation of the circumstances. *Dahir* disclaimed any participation in the affair,

or any authority over the robbers who had committed it. *Hijaj* gained the *Khalif's* permission to send an officer named *Buzeel* to *Mukran*, where he was instructed to levy troops, and attack *Sindh*. *Dahir* *Buzeel* killed. sent his son *Jaiseh*, who defeated *Buzeel's* forces, killed him, and took many prisoners. In the mean time the *Khalif* died, and was succeeded by his son *Wulleed*, (*Bin Abdoul Mulk*); *Hijaj* urged him to renew the war, and to send a force under *Mahomed Bin Cassim*, (a cousin of *Hijaj*), to release the faithful, and punish the unbelievers, as his father, the former *Khalif*, had intended to have done. The *Khalif* *Wulleed* gave the necessary orders to *Hijaj* for the preparation and equipment of a force from the public treasury. In one month he collected an army of 15,000 men, 6,000 of whom were horse, 6000 mounted on camels, and 3,000 foot, with 30,000 dinars for expenses; five catapultas for levelling forts were dispatched in boats. *Bin Cassim* arrived at *Deebul*. marched, and arrived at the fort of *Deehul*, to conquer *Sindh*, in the year 92 H. (A. D. 710.) *Jaiseh*, the son of *Dahir*, was at that time governor of the fort of *Nierunkote*,* and sent intelligence of the arrival of the Mahomedan army to his father at *Alor*; *Dahir* asked advice of the *Ullafees*, (a tribe which he had sheltered after an outrage which they had committed on some of the deputies of *Hijaj*); they counselled him to avoid meeting the powerful army of *Bin Cassim*, and to entrench himself in the fort of *Alor*. *Bin Cassim* took the fort of *Deebul*, in which was a large Hindoo temple, so sacred,† that it was supposed to act as a talisman, and to prevent the capture of the fort. *Bin Cassim* threw it down with a catapulta, destroyed the temples of the idolaters, building *musjeeds* on their sites, released the prisoners of the Faithful who were confined there, and putting his material on board boats, proceeded to *Nierunkote*. After a difficult journey of seven days, the roads being blockaded by the *Sindians*, and the troops of *Bin Cassim's* army suffering much from drought, owing to the river not swelling,‡ the army of the Faithful arrived before the fort of *Nierunkote*, the governor of which was *Sunnee*, who had succeeded the son of *Dahir* (*Jaiseh*), in consequence of the

* Near the modern city of *Hyderabad*, see Capt. *McMurdo's* paper on *Sindh*.

† Hence its name from the Hindoo, for a temple, *Deebul* or *Deewul*.

‡ The Mahomedan army joined in prayer for relief from this calamity; their supplications were answered by a plentiful fall of rain and a swell of the river.

latter being sent to the more important command of *Burhamanabad*. The Mahomedans began to suffer much from want of supplies, but after a short siege, the governor *Sumnee* surrendered the keys of the fort on condition of quarter to the garrison. *Bin Cassim* entered the fort, destroyed the temples, built *musjeeds* and *minarets* in their stead, and appointed keepers and *mouzzins* to the same; he left magistrates to preserve his authority at *Neirunkote*, and taking the governor *Sumnee* with him, proceeded onwards. This last wrote to the governor of the fort of *Moostan*, *Bucherim Chunder*, advising him to submit to the invaders, as they were too powerful to oppose. *Bucherim's* fidelity however was unshaken, but after a week's siege, he was obliged to abandon the fort, and flee to *Seem*, of which place *Boodeh* was governor. *Bin Cassim* took possession of the fort of *Moostan*, and having made arrangements for its government, proceeded to *Seem*, where he found *Bucherim Chunder* and *Boodeh* prepared to oppose him. The infidels failed in a night attack upon the camp of the Faithful; and *Kakeh*, *Boodeh's* father, foreseeing that the time was arrived when the country of *Sindh* must submit to the Mahomedan arms, came to *Bin Cassim* to intreat for quarter for his son, and the whole garrison of *Seem*—it was granted. *Bin Cassim* took possession of *Seem*, and leaving *Abdool Mulk* to settle the affairs of that place, pursued his march, daily adding fresh conquests to the arms of the Faithful; he took the forts of *Buhultoer*, *Kundabuh*, (? *Gundava*), and *Mussalaj*, from all of which he exacted tribute, leaving troops to retain the new possessions thus acquired. At this time a letter reached *Bin Cassim* from *Hijjaj*, ordering him to *Neirunkote*, to cross the river, and prepare to expel the *Rajah Dahir* from the capital of the country *Alor*. The large and powerful tribe of *Chuch* proffered obedience to *Bin Cassim*; it is also related that they embraced *Islamism*, and were the first inhabitants of *Sindh* who did so. In obedience to the instructions of *Hijjaj*, *Bin Cassim* proceeded to the fort of *Rawur*, which he summoned to surrender; the governor *Mokeh Bin Bussayeh* made a feint to resist, being afraid of the wrath of *Dahir*, but ultimately surrendered the fort, and with the garrison promised obedience to *Bin Cassim*.

Hijjaj urges *Bin Cassim* to attack *Alor*.

CHAPTER III.

Dahir alarmed at the successes which attend *Bin Cassim*, exerts himself to prevent his crossing the *Meheran*—the Mahomedans suffer from famine—*Dahir* offers terms—not accepted—*Hijaj* sends horses and supplies to *Bin Cassim*, who passes the river—*Dahir's* consternation—comes out from *Alor* with a large army—account of his death, and the defeat of his forces—the Mahomedans enter the capital *Alor*.

The successes which attended the army of *Bin Cassim*, began to

Dahir alarmed at the successes of *Bin Cassim*. terrify the *Rajah Dahir* for the safety of his capital and dominions, and he foresaw that if the Ma-

homedans effected the passage of the river, the fate of his sovereignty was sealed. He collected an army of the *Koordans*,

Opposes the passage of the *Mehran*. and arriving at the opposite bank, employed himself in obstructing the passage of *Bin Cassim* ;

this duty he afterwards delegated to *Jah Humeen*, and he himself returned to *Alor*. *Jah Humeen* performed his part so well, aided

by the *Rajah's* son, *Jaisch*, (who cut off the supplies of the Mahomedans,) that these latter began to suffer all the misery and

Bin Cassim's army suffers from famine. horrors of a famine ; they were driven to slay their own horses for food ; coupled with this, *Chund Ram*

Haleh, the former governor of *Secoostan*, heading some insurgents, seized that fort from a small party of horse, who were left to govern its

garrison. *Bin Cassim*, however, immediately dispatched *Muzhub Bin Abdul* with 1000 horse and 2000 infantry, who regained the

fort, and took *Chund Ram* prisoner. *Dahir* thinking these mis-

Dahir offers terms, but not accepted. fortunes would soon dispirit the Moslems, wrote to *Bin Cassim*, assuring him, that if he wished

to withdraw his forces, he might do so in security ; the latter answered, that he had no intention of retiring, until he had taken

the capital *Alor*, and subjected *Sindh* and its dependencies to the Mahomedan rule. The intelligence of the difficulties encountered

by *Bin Cassim*, and the loss of the passes, reaching *Hijaj*, he dispatched 1,000 others, with fresh supplies to

Hijaj finds supplies and horses. *Bin Cassim*, urging him to lose no time in crossing the river, as the overthrow of *Dahir* was the first and most important step ; on receiving this, *Bin Cassim* proceeded to *Juhum*, where with

the assistance of *Mokeh Bin Bussayeh*, he collected some boats, and filling them with sand and stones, commenced a bridge for the passage of his army; it was under many difficulties and obstructions at length completed; the first detachment of the Faithful passed the river under a shower of arrows from the infidels, who were collected in strength on the opposite bank; but these being driven back, the whole of the army of *Bin Cassim* passed without further molestation. It is reported that *Dahir's* consternation, rage on receiving the intelligence was so great, that he killed the messenger who was the bearer of it.

Bin Cassim now exhorted his soldiers to firmness: "the river was in their rear, and the enemy in front, still if any were faint-hearted amongst them, then was the time to quit the army, and return to their own country." There were only three of the whole host who did so. *Bin Cassim* having thus secured the co-operation of his troops, proceeded onwards to *Jeyoor*, near which place he first caught a glimpse of *Dahir's* forces; he detached *Muhuzzin Bin Sabit Kiessee* with 2,000 men, and *Mahomed Zyad ul Huddee* with 1,000, to oppose them. In the mean time, *Dahir* called *Mahomed Haris Ullafee* to him, and said: "I have protected and promoted you; now is the time to requite my kindness, and to shew yourself worthy of my confidence." *Mahomed Haris* excused himself by saying, that he could not oppose the Moslems without being a renegade to the faith he professed. *Dahir* therefore deputed his son *Jaisch* to lead his army against *Bin Cassim*; he did so, but was defeated with great slaughter, and *Bin Cassim* advanced upon *Alor*, which he besieged.

On the 10th of the month *Ramzan*, in the year ninety-three *Hejira*, *Dahir* comes out from *Rajah Dahir* determined to make one bold stroke for his crown and kingdom; came out from the city of *Alor* with an immense army; they say he had 30,000 infantry in advance of his cavalry and elephants; he himself seated on an elephant, the *howdah* of which was richly ornamented, passed to the right and left, animating the soldiers, and disposing his battalions in order of battle; seated in the same *howdah* were two beautiful female slaves, one administered wine, the other *pān* and *beetle-nut* to him. The battle which ensued is described as

terrific, lasting from morn till night. *Bin Cassim* himself fought as a common soldier with his troops, performing deeds of valour ; but the day was decided in favour of the faithful. In consequence of the latter throwing fireworks amongst the Rajah's elephants the *howdahs* took fire, and the infuriated beasts rushed madly through their own troops, trampling down all before them until they arrived at the river, into the muddy banks of which they plunged. *Dahir's* elephant was amongst them, and the Mahomedans profiting by the confusion, threw

Dahir's death and the defeat of his army.

showers of arrows, one of which struck *Dahir* in the neck, and killed him ; his elephant sunk into the mud ; and the Brahmins who were behind the *howdah*,

took the body of the Rajah and buried it there. The infidels fled in all directions, and the carnage which ensued was dreadful ; all the approaches to the citadel of *Alor* were most carefully blocked up, and the Brahmins and two female slaves fell into the hands of an officer of *Bin Cassim's* army, named *Keiss*, to whom they detailed the particulars of *Dahir's* death, and begged for quarter. *Keiss* took them to *Bin Cassim* ; the body of *Dahir* was found in the mud of the river, and the head was severed from the body, and stuck upon a spear. That night the Moslems occupied themselves in prayers and thanksgivings for the victory they had gained. The next morning *Bin Cassim* caused the head of *Dahir*, together with the two slaves, to be placed over one of the gates of the city. *Dahir's* wife, *Ladee*, seeing this, threw herself from the walls, and the garrison being no longer able to offer any opposition, opened the gates of the fort. The army of the Mahomedans enter *Alor* 93 H. (A. D. 711.) faithful entered and took possession of *Alor* on Friday, the 11th of Ramzan, in the 93rd year of the *Hejira*. *Dahir* ruled 33 years, and the rule of the Brahmins embraces a period of 92 years.

CHAPTER IV.

The tribe of *Soommah* and others pay homage to *Bin Cassim*—the rebellion of the sons of *Dahir*—governors appointed to the principal cities and provinces of *Sindh*—*Bin Cassim* extends his conquest as far east as *Cashmeer*—the story of his death—deputies of the Kings of *Ghuznein*, *Ghoor*, and *Delhi*, govern in some of the provinces of *Sindh*—origin and rule of the tribe of *Soomrah*—*Nasir-ud-deen Kibajeh*—his rule and death.

The whole of the rich booty of *Alor*, including the treasury and crown jewels of *Dahir*, were collected and placed in charge of *Keiss*, to convey to the *Khalif* at *Sham*. The *Khalif* honoured and promoted *Keiss*, and wrote letters of approbation to *Bin Cassim* urging him at the same time to extend his conquest still further, until the whole of the countries which were dependencies of *Sindh*, should be subjugated and form part of the *Khalif's* territories.

After the defeat and death of *Dahir*, the men of *Soommah* came with music and dancing to pay homage to *Bin Cassim*; he asked the reason of this, and they told him that it was their custom thus to greet a victorious chief. The *Lohanas*, *Battis*, men of *Suhateh*, *Koosejeh*, *Haleh*, &c. led on by *Ally Mahomed Bin Abdool Ruhmun Sulleetee*, with head and feet bare, also proffered their allegiance. Men of *Soommah* and others pay homage to *Bin Cassim*.

Rebellion of the sons of *Dahir*. In the meantime the sons of *Dahir* entrenched themselves in the fort of *Sikunder*, where they determined to offer opposition to *Bin Cassim*. *Burhamanabad* having previously been taken, and its tax and tribute settled, *Bin Cassim* marched to besiege the fort of *Sikunder*, and to quell the rebellion of the sons of *Dahir*, (*Jaisch*, *Toofic*, and *Wukeeah*); he reduced this place, and although the sons of *Dahir* were sometime before they would believe the death of their father, (even abusing their mother, who was sent to assure them of it, by calling her a *hár*, traitress, and one in league with the "slayers of cows,") a sorceress assured them that he was dead, whereupon they surrendered.

The capital city *Alor*, with all the principal provinces and cities of the country of *Sindh* having thus fallen to the Mahomedan arms, governors were appointed to the following places: Governors appointed.

Uhnuf Bin Keiss to *Alor*, with *Moossie Bin Yakoob* as Cazy; to *Burhamanabad*, *Widah Bin Ameed*; and to

Rawur, Tobeh Dārus. *Bin Cassim* then proceeded towards *Mooltan*, and on the road, at the fort of *Baheeah*, *Kulsur Bin Chunder* made obedience to him; after that, the fort of *Sukkeh* was taken, and *Utbeh Bin Tumhee* left there as governor. *Mooltan*, with all its strongholds and dependencies fell to *Bin Cassim*, who appointed *Khuzzaneh Bin Abdool Mulk* to the fort of *Mehpoor*, *Dawood Bin Nusserpoor* to *Mooltan*, and proceeded to *Debalpoor*; at this time he is reported to have had 50,000 horse and foot under his banners, independent of the regular army with which he invaded the country. Having taken possession

of the countries to the east as far as *Cashmeer* and *Kunnooj*; he returned, having placed trustworthy governors and servants in all those places. At the time

Bin Cassim conquers as far as the country of *Cashmeer*.

that *Keiss* was deputed to convey the treasure and booty captured at *Alor*, with the prisoners to the *Khalif* of *Sham*, amongst the

Story of his death.

latter were two daughters of *Dahir*.* The *Khalif* consigned them to his *harem* until they should recover from the fatigues of travel, and be prepared for his service; their beauty was very great, and the *Khalif* was about to consign one to his bed, when she informed him that *Bin Cassim*, flushed with victory, had robbed them both of their virginity, and had kept them in his *harem* for three days; the *Khalif's* wrath at this knew no bounds, and he wrote an order with his own hand, informing his servants to seize *Bin Cassim*, to sow him up in a raw cow's hide, and send him to *Bagdad*. This order reached the chief at *Hadapoor*, and he desired the servants to obey the order of their tyrannical master; they did so, and in three days the brave *Bin Cassim* sunk under the torture. His body was conveyed to the *Khalif*, who exultingly shewed it to the two women, as a proof of his absolute power; and of the full measure of revenge which he had taken upon the innocent *Bin Cassim*. They confessed that the accusation was totally false; that they were solely actuated by revenge for the murder of their father, and the destruction of his kingdom. The wretched *Khalif* too late saw the injustice he had committed, and suffered the most poignant remorse; he caused the two women to be tied to horses, and dragged to death through the streets of *Bagdad*. *Bin Cassim* was buried at *Damascus*. At the time of *Bin Cassim's* death, *Bin Keiss*

* Gispul Deo and Soeing Deo.

was governor of *Alor*, the other places being governed, as before-mentioned; five other governors, deputies of the *Khalif* of *Beni Oomhae*, governed *Sindh* successively, with little or no alteration in the state of affairs, until in the year 133 H. the power over that country passed to the *Khalifs* of the dynasty of *Beni Abbas*. The period of the rule of the deputies of the *Khalifs* of *Beni Oomhae* in *Sindh*, embraces a period of 40 years from its conquest in 93 to 133 H. (A. D. 750.)

Sindh continued to be a dependency of the *Khalifs* of the tribe of *Beni Abbas*, who sent many deputies to govern the country. The only circumstance noted as worthy of observation throughout their rule, is, that one of the governors named *Tumun*, who arrived from *Bagdad*, brought with him many Arabs, residents of *Samrah*, who remained in *Sindh*, and in the course of time, produced the powerful tribe called the *Soomrahs*. In the year H. 416 (A. D. 1025,) *Sooltan Mahmood Ghuzney* sent deputies to the country of *Sindh*, thus terminating the sovereignty of the tribe of *Beni Abbas*, after a period of 283 years. The men of *Soomrah* had for a period of nearly 100 years been powerful *zumindars*; but as they continued to pay tax and tribute, they will be hereafter treated of as rulers.

The deputies of the kings of *Ghuzneiny*, *Ghoor*, and *Delhi*, possessed many of the provinces of *Sindh*, and sent governors to them from the time of *Sooltan Mahmood Ghuzneiny*, until a man named *Soomrah*, of that tribe, during the reign of *Sooltan Abool Rusheed Ghuznein*, was by the *Soomrahs* placed upon the throne, about 446 H. (1054 A. D.) and ruled independently. According to some writers, this tribe were originally Arabs, from a place called *Samrah*; they became *zumindars* in *Sindh*, of some power, and after the departure of the tribe of *Beni Abbas*, their numbers increased; whilst the deputies of the kings of *Guzneiny*, *Ghoor*, and *Delhi* possessed portions of the country, the *Soomrahs* ruled independently.

According to the author of the *Muntukhib-ul-Tuwareek*, *Sooltan Abool Rusheed* being of weak intellect, neglected his dominions, and the men of *Sindh* threw off his allegiance; and in the year 445 H. (1053 A. D.) placed a man of the tribe of *Soomrah*, named *Soomrah*, on the throne. He married the daughter of *Sad*, a *zumindar*, by whom he had *Bahoon-*

kur, who succeeded his father, and died in the year 461 H. (A. D. 1068;) he left a son, *Deodah*, who ruled for 24 years, and died in the year 485 H. (1092 A. D.) After him *Sunkahar* reigned 15 years; *Huneef* 36 years; *Onmur* 46; *Deodah* II. 14 years; *Pustoo* 33; *Kezreh* 16; *Mahomeed Toor* 15; *Kuhereh* (unknown,) *Deodah* III. 14; *Tahee* 24; *Juneesur* 18; *Bahoonkur* II. 15; *Huffeef* 18; *Deodah* IV. 25; *Oomur Soomrah* 35; *Bahoonkur* III. 10; *Humeel* succeeded him; and being a tyrant and oppressor, was the cause of the downfall of the *Soomrah* dynasty. But according to others, this tribe was in *Sindh* altogether 550 years, as *zumindars* and rulers, and their overthrow by the men of *Soomah* was occasioned by the tyrannies of the governor *Humeel*, in the year of the *Hejira* 752 (A. D.

Nasir-ud-deen Kubajeh, his rule and death. 1351,) when their dynasty ceased.* Previous to this

period, *Nasir-ud-deen Kubajeh* who was deputed at the time of *Shums-ud-deen Ooltumsh* of *Delhi*, governor of *Sindh*, about the year 610 H. (A. D. 1213,) declared himself independent. A force under *Jhingiz Khan* invaded the country. *Nasir-ud-deen* not being prepared to oppose them, entrenched himself in the fort of *Mooltan*, where he was besieged for forty days; but the besiegers were obliged to return unsuccessful. Many of the great men of *Khorassan*, *Ghoor*, and *Ghuznein* fleeing from the oppression of *Jinghiz Khan*, came to *Nasir-ud-deen* at *Mooltan*.

In the year 611 H. (1214 A. D.) *Mulck Khan Khuljee* made an incursion upon *Seeostan*. *Nasir-ud-deen* marched to oppose him; the army of *Mulck Khuljee* was defeated, and he himself killed.

In the year 622 H. (1225 A. D.) *Shums-ud-deen* took an army to *Oochch*, to overthrow *Nasir-ud-deen*, who had entrenched himself at *Bukkur*; to this place *Shums-ud-deen* detached *Nizam-ul-Moolk*; but

His death. *Nasir-ud-deen* in attempting to escape from *Bukkur*, took boat, which foundering in a storm, he was drowned.

* The rule of the tribe of *Soomrah* in *Sindh* is far from being clearly made; but in the manuscripts consulted in this sketch, the authors confess their want of authentic record, and *Meer Massoom*, after a very unsatisfactory account, closes it by saying: "If any of my friends know more on this subject, let them publish it; I have said all I can upon the matter." Nor is the author of the *Soofut-al-Kiram* more explicit; (vide his contradictory statements); but it is generally received, that from the date of sending *Nasir-ud-deen* to *Sindh*, until the rule of the *Soomas*, (about 200 years,) *Sindh* was annexed to *Delhi*.

(To be Continued.)